



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Flooded property will be bought out

\$1.9 million project to reduce impact of future flooding

ST. PAUL — Fourteen flooded-out homeowners and one flooded-out business owner in Zumbro Falls, Minn. are taking part in a plan to reduce destruction and damage if the town floods again. Specialists with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) have been working with the city to identify property owners whose homes or businesses were substantially damaged during the September 2010 flood. The qualified homes and business are located in the floodplain of the Zumbro River. Once the city acquires the properties it will turn the land into a permanent open space. This will reduce the impact of any future flooding.

HSEM will receive nearly \$1.5 million in Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMPG) funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to pass on to the city which will be directly responsible for buying the 15 properties. The remaining \$488,384 for the project will come from the city and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Flood Damage Reduction Grant Program.

HSEM Director Kris Eide says her staff and FEMA worked tirelessly to get this project approved in a timely fashion. Eide says hazard mitigation projects like this one are a huge return on investment for communities. They can save millions of dollars in lost property in future floods as well as money and time spent in sandbagging and emergency responder costs. All Minnesota counties are eligible to apply for HMPG funding.

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